WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

Sub A1

1. A computerized method for rendering images, comprising:

receiving from a client a render job having an associated job profile;

distributing the render job via a communications medium to at least one of a plurality of render servers based at least in part on the job profile;

rendering the render job; and

forwarding the rendered render job to a network storage system for retrieval by the client.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein receiving from a client the render job from a client comprises receiving the render job from a computer remote from the plurality of render servers.

Sub A2

3. The method of Claim 1, wherein distributing the render job comprises distributing the render job by a scheduler, the first scheduler operable to determine which of the plurality of render servers is capable of rendering the render job.

4. The method of Claim 3, wherein the scheduler is operable to determine which of the plurality of render servers is capable of rendering the render job by accessing a database storing the capabilities of each of the plurality of render servers.

5. The method of Claim 4, wherein the capabilities database stores the type of rendering package associated with each of the plurality of render servers.

6. The method of Claim 4, wherein the capabilities database stores a processing status for each of the plurality of the render servers.

5

7. The method of Claim 1, and further comprising transmitting the rendered render job to the client.

8. A system for rendering images, comprising:

a plurality of render servers operable to render a render job having an associated job profile;

a resource database comprising resource information regarding the plurality of render servers; and

a schedule server coupled to the render server via a communications medium and operable to distribute the render job to one or more of a plurality of render servers based on a comparison of the job profile and the resource information.

9. The system of Claim 8, wherein the resource information comprises the type of rendering package associated with each of the plurality of render servers.

10. The system of Claim 8, wherein the resource information comprises a processing status for each of the plurality of render servers.

11. The system of Claim 8, wherein the schedule server is operable to determine whether a particular one of the render servers is capable of rendering a particular render job.

12. The system of Claim 8, wherein the resource database further comprises resource information regarding a plurality of render hosts associated with respective ones of the render servers.

13. The system of Claim 12, wherein the resource information comprises hardware configuration information regarding the render hosts.

14. A system for providing distributed rendering servers comprising:

a local rendering system operable to receive and render a render job; and

at least one remote rendering system operable to receive from the local rendering system the render job and render the render job and further operable to return a result of the render job to the local rendering system.

15. The system of Claim 14, wherein the local rendering system comprises:

a plurality of render servers operable to render a render job having an associated job profile;

a resource database comprising resource information regarding the plurality of render servers; and

a schedule server coupled to the render server via a communications medium and operable to distribute the render job to one or more of a plurality of render servers based on a comparison of the job profile and the resource information.

16. The system of Claim 14, wherein the remote rendering system comprises:

a plurality of render servers operable to render a render job having an associated job profile;

a resource database comprising resource information regarding the plurality of render servers; and

a schedule server coupled to the render server via a communications medium and operable to distribute the render job to one or more of a plurality of render servers based on a comparison of the job profile and the resource information.

17. The system of Claim 16, wherein the resource information comprises the type of rendering package associated with each of the plurality of render servers.

18. The system of Claim 16, wherein the resource information comprises a processing status for each of the plurality of render servers.

19. The system of Claim 16, wherein the schedule server is operable to determine whether a particular one of the render servers is capable of rendering a particular render job.

20. The system of Claim 16, wherein the resource database further comprises resource information regarding a plurality of render hosts associated with respective ones of the render servers.

21. A computerized method for rendering images comprising:

receiving a render job from a client at a first rendering site;

transferring the render job from the first rendering site to a second rendering site, the second rendering site located remote from the first rendering site; and

rendering the render job at the second rendering site to produce a render result.

22. The method of Claim 21, and further comprising transmitting the render result to the client.

23. The method of Claim 21, and further comprising transmitting the render result from the second render site to the first render site.

24. The method of Claim 21, and further comprising storing the render result in a location accessible by the client.

25. The method of Claim 21, wherein the first rendering site comprises:

a plurality of render servers operable to render a render job having an associated job profile;

a resource database comprising resource information regarding the plurality of render servers; and

a schedule server coupled to the render server via a communications medium and operable to distribute the render job to one or more of a plurality of render servers based on a comparison of the job profile and the resource information.

26. The method of Claim 21, wherein the second rendering site comprises:

a plurality of render servers operable to render a render job having an associated job profile;

a resource database comprising resource information regarding the plurality of render servers; and

a schedule server coupled to the render server via a communications medium and operable to distribute the render job to one or more of a plurality of render servers based on a comparison of the job profile and the resource information.

27. The method of Claim 21, and further comprising transferring files associated with the render job from the first site to the second site, the associated files being necessary to render the render job.

28. The method of Claim 27, wherein the associated files comprise a texture file.

29. The method of Claim 21, and further comprising notifying, by the second rendering site, the first rendering site when the render job has been rendered.